

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated November 27, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1-22 and 27 are currently pending. Claims 23-26 have previously been canceled per Response of August 9, 2005. Claims 1-8 have previously been withdrawn by the Examiner per Applicants' previous election of Group II (claims 9-26) of August 25, 2004. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication of allowable claims 9-22 (Office Action at page 3).

In the Office Action, claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,714,266 B1 (to Ueda et al.)(hereinafter "Ueda").

The rejection of claim 27 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claim 27 is allowable over the cited reference in that claim 27 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "... forming a silicide layer on the metal line in direct contact with substantially entire surfaces of the metal line." Ueda does not teach or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, claim 27 is allowable over the cited reference.

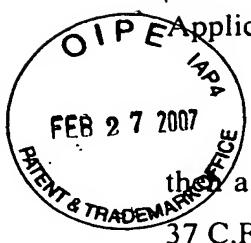
In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Dated: February 27, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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7

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